

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Entry of this Preliminary Amendment prior to examination is respectfully requested. Upon entry of this Preliminary Amendment, Claims 1-7 and 9 will be pending in the application.

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly recite “channel means” instead of “detent means”, and to further recite that the link means pass vertically into the mutually aligned channel means, and resiliently biased latching means permit the link means to pass vertically into the aligned channel means to engage the channel means.

Claim 2 has been amended to more clearly recite that the resiliently biased latching means comprises spring supports for the link means permitting the link means to deflect and pass vertically into the channel means as the link means is lowered, and to spring back beneath a shoulder of the channel means to prevent return movement.

Claim 3 has been amended to more clearly recite that the channel means comprises a pair of channel members secured to the outside of the modules so that the flanges engage beneath shoulders of the channel members when the link means is lowered into the space between adjacent building modules.

Claim 6 has been amended to more clearly recite that the link means comprises a double headed pin member extending transversely across the space between adjacent building modules and supported by an insert bar on which the pin member can be lowered into the said space; and each channel means is a channel member on the outside wall of each building module comprising a guide channel for guiding an end portion of the pin member while the heads of the pin member engage with the mutually aligned channel means to lock them together.

Basis for the substitution of the word “channel” for the word “detent” is provided in the specification, for example, at page 4, line 17. Support for “mutually aligned channel means” can be found in the specification, for example, at page 6, lines 28-29. Although the specific term “vertically” does not appear in the specification, it is self-evident from the description and the drawings that the engaging detents 15 and 17 must pass the channel members 11 in order to engage their far side. Although the specific term “latching” does not appear in the specification, it is simply a clarification of

the functional definition of the resilient means that was in the original Claim 1, i.e., it prevents the return movement of the link means.

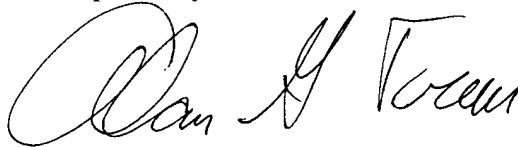
Claims 2 and 3 have been clarified to specify that the link means is held in place against shoulders on the channel members, this being the natural term that one skilled in the art would use to describe the corner between the vertical and horizontal parts of the top hat members 11 in Fig. 2.

Claim 6 has also been clarified to recite that the pin 27 is a double ended pin as shown in Fig. 4. It is submitted that paragraph 2 on page 7 teaches that the pin 27 is double ended, because this is the only way that it could be "lowered . . . between adjacent modules and the pin 27 is guided by the divergent jaws 24 into the cup portions 25 of the two adjacent guide channels 21" on lines 10 to 13. Support for the other change to Claim 6 can be found on line 16.

No issue of new matter is presented by the present amendments.

In the event that it would facilitate prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (412) 263-4340 to discuss such matters.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan G. Towner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alan" being the most prominent part.

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